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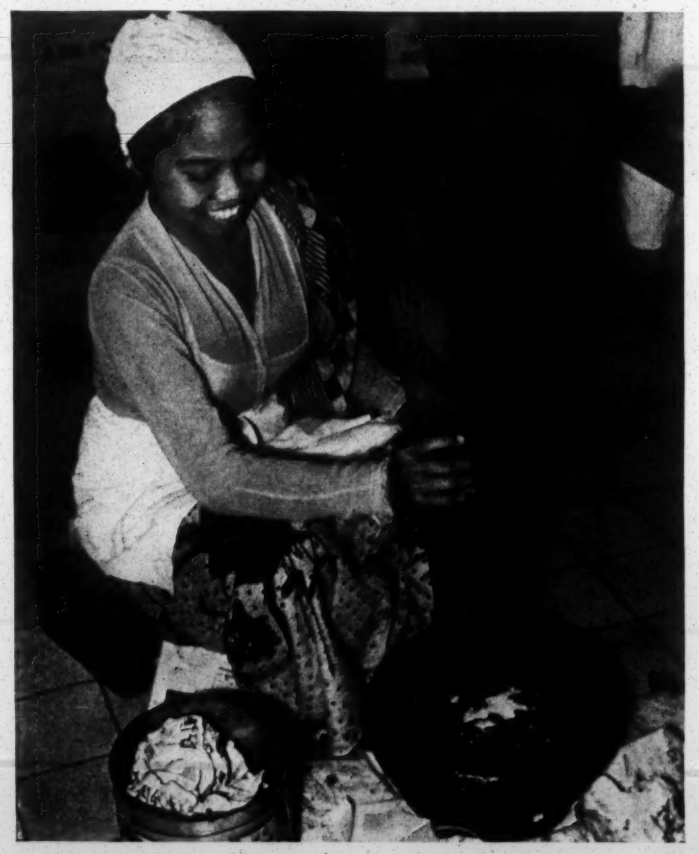

PIX

A BATAVIAN COOK PREPARES SPICY SAUCE FOR THE MOUNTAINOUS MEAL KNOWN AS "RIJSTTAFEL" (RICE TABLE) IN INDONESIA (Bulletin No. 1)

Bulletin No. 1, November 28, 1949

# A New United States Rises in Indonesia

UNDER the fruitful tropical sun of the Far East a new nation has arisen. The fledgling Republic of the United States of Indonesia is scheduled to take over a domain rich in products for which the world has reached usually in vain, since the start of World War II.

The "Wealth of the Indies" is an old story, to be continued under new management. This new management, set up by the Hague agreement just concluded between representatives of Indonesia and the formerly-ruling Netherlands government, finds many chapters of its future economic story already well started.

## 3,000-Mile Federation

Modern chapter headings include Oil, Rubber, and Tin. But the nationalist successors to what was the Netherlands East Indies also are becoming proprietor-heirs of a trade that is more than three centuries old. As housewives learned when they lost it during World War II, the old commerce in pepper and spice is still important to the Western World.

The territory to be federated as the United States of Indonesia stretches along 3,000 miles of island-dotted seas north and northwest of Australia. Its status as a sovereign nation linked with the Netherlands under the symbolic head of the queen is somewhat similar to that of the British commonwealths.

The Republic of Indonesia—the local regime which has been in the forefront of the prolonged and bloody struggle against Netherlands authority—controls the bulk of the western islands of Sumatra and Java, excluding certain sections where a later plebiscite will determine borders and affiliation.

The states of big Borneo, and smaller Madoera, Bangka, Billiton, and Riouw, plus "Eastern Indonesia," with Celebes, Halmahera, Bali, and other islands, make up the rest of the prospective federation. At the far-eastern end of the emerald equatorial chain the Netherlands half of vast New Guinea remains for the present under Dutch rule.

## Has Varied Resources

Lush volcano-studded Java, with adjoining Madoera, holds some two-thirds of Indonesia's 70-odd-million population. The old capital, Batavia (Jacarta to the Indonesians), will become a federal district. It will be the new seat of government (illustration, cover).

Larger, but wilder, Sumatra—with its tiger infested forests and jungles, its foreign-owned plantations and oil fields—contains eight to nine million inhabitants (illustration, next page), including still-untamed tribesmen in the interior. From these two islands, in normal times, pours the major portion of Indonesia's numerous and varied exports—rubber, petroleum, copra, pepper, sugar, coffee (see Bulletin No. 4), tea, tobacco, and kapok.

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K. S. TWITCHELL

**RAIN IN ITS HIGH MOUNTAINS GAVE YEMEN THE ANCIENT NAME "ARABIA FELIX" (Happy Arabia)**

The water, carefully saved in reservoirs, is fed out through terraces to thirsty coffee trees. The contour fields were scraped from mountainsides centuries ago. Soil is thin, but it supports coffee trees ten feet tall—the desired height for "Coffea arabica" over the world (Bulletins Nos. 4 and 5).

Bulletin No. 2, November 28, 1949

# Indian Students Relearn Totem-Carving Art

THERE is something new under the educational sun—a course in totem-pole carving.

Offered at Squamish Life College, British Columbia's all-Indian school in North Vancouver, it presents the braves of the far Northwest with an opportunity to relearn (under critical professorial eye) an almost forgotten craft. The course, incidentally, is the first formalized attempt to teach the subject in educational history.

## The Indians' Social Register

Since the turn of the 20th century totem-carving has been a dying art. About the only work undertaken has been the restoring of pole clusters still standing in southeast Alaska and along the coast and coastal islands of British Columbia—America's "totempolar region" (illustration, next page).

Yet less than a century ago the Northwest tribes—the Haida, Tlingit, and Tsimshian—were erecting totem poles about as fast as they could accumulate the wealth to afford them. To the tribal chief of the 1860's, owning a totem was somewhat similar to having one's name in today's social registers.

Contrary to wide belief, there was nothing sacred or religious about an Indian's totem. Embellished with figures of whales, bears, ravens, eagles, and sometimes even the owner's image, it simply represented his claim to wealth and fame. The larger the pole, of course, the greater the prestige.

This social climbing naturally led to an intense and bitter rivalry among competing chiefs over their poles. One strove to outdo the other by taking on new names and emblems, and then having these self-proclaimed honors carved on larger and larger totems. Some poles towered 60 feet above the ground.

## No Poles More than Century Old

It also was a costly practice. Every time an Indian raised a new totem, etiquette required that he stage a lavish ceremonial—called a potlatch—and bestow many gifts on his guests. These celebrations always left the host temporarily impoverished, but he expected full repayment, plus interest, as a guest at future potlatches.

Today's visitor to the Northwest often gets the impression that the remaining weather-worn totems are objects of great antiquity. They aren't. Probably none of them are more than 100 years old.

The first totem poles are believed to have been erected less than two centuries ago along the lower reaches of the Nass River in British Columbia, or on the Queen Charlotte Islands south of the Alaska panhandle. The poles themselves gradually evolved from the Indians' practice of carving interior house posts, with a few ideas from their grave posts grafted on.

But one needn't expect a new crop of 60-foot totems to burgeon throughout the northwest country. The Squamish Life College course is

The two main islands, however, by no means cover the whole of Indonesia's economic story. Bangka and Billiton are noted for their rich tin mines, reported to be surpassing prewar output as early as 1948.

Borneo yields oil, gold, diamonds, and pepper. The little Moluccas—the original "Spice Isles" over which early Portuguese, Dutch, British, and Spanish traders fought—are still leaders in the spice trade, and lately have added oil to their exports. The big central island of Celebes is outstanding for copra and kapok.

Bali is a specialty in itself. The center of an ancient art and culture, it attracts globe-trotting visitors, scholars, and artists.

NOTE: The islands comprising the United States of Indonesia may be located on the National Geographic Society's map of Southeast Asia and Pacific Islands. Write the Society's headquarters, Washington 6, D. C., for a price list of maps.

For additional information, see "Postwar Journey Through Java," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for May, 1948; "The Face of the Netherlands Indies" (20 photographs), February, 1946; "Seafarers of South Celebes," January, 1945*; "Treasure Islands of Australasia," June, 1942*; "Celebes: New Man's Land of the Indies," July, 1940*; "Bali and Points East," March, 1939; and "Netherlands Indies: Patchwork of Peoples" (23 color photographs), June, 1938. (*Issues marked with an asterisk are included in a special list of Magazines available to teachers in packets of ten for $1.00.*)

See also, in the GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS, January 17, 1949, "Batavia and Jogjakarta Offer Java Contrast."

MAYNARD OWEN WILLIAMS

**BATAK HIGHLANDERS OF NORTHERN SUMATRA LIVE IN PILE-SUPPORTED BAMBOO HOMES**

**The new United States of Indonesia is big. If this village, Kabandjahe, were placed over Eureka, California, and the East Indies were spread eastward over the United States, then the Aroe Islands—easternmost group of the new federation—would fall upon North Carolina's Cape Hatteras.**

# England's Coventry Is Three-Sided Symbol

LADY GODIVA is on her horse again. This time the medieval heroine of Coventry, England, is of bronze, as is her mount. A statue of the famous pair recently was unveiled in Coventry by the wife of the United States Ambassador to Britain.

The new monument is an indication that this ancient English city, now gradually rebuilding its war-shattered homes, churches, and factories, has not forgotten its past. In practical terms, this past is the story of steadily growing industries which have made the city an English economic leader.

## Tennyson Glorified Legend

To the world at large, however, the name Coventry usually stands for three other things. It is a symbol of sacrifice by a modest woman who rode unclothed through the streets to ransom the people from cruel taxation. It is a word that means isolation enforced by one's fellows. And, finally, since the devastating bombing of World War II, it has brought into being a new verb denoting the ultimate in destruction—to "coventrize" or "coventrate."

There are skeptics who say that Lady Godiva's ride is a myth, and that the myth was merely romanticized by Tennyson's famous poem.

Whatever the exact facts, in the history-plus-legend of the event it is recorded that Lady Godiva was the wife of Leofric, powerful 11th-century Earl of Mercia. Both the earl and his wife were said to have been generous benefactors of the church, and to have founded a Benedictine abbey at the Coventry site.

The earliest narrative of the famous ride was written by a 13th-century author, based on stories growing out of the incident. According to this account, Leofric, in jest or anger at his wife's continued protests against the heavy taxes levied on Coventry's near-starving people, agreed to lift the burden if she would ride, as Tennyson put it, clothed only "with chastity," through the market place. At the end of her ordeal, the story goes, Leofric kept his promise.

Later a postscript legend was added, to the effect that only one of all the townspeople broke the pledge not to witness the ride. For his lapse, this curious person was stricken with blindness.

## On German Bombing List

The expression to be "sent to Coventry" arose long after Godiva's time. During England's Civil War of the 1600's, Coventry was a stronghold of the Parliamentarians in their struggle against the king's authority. The phrase is believed to have grown out of their practice of sending Royalist prisoners to Coventry for safekeeping.

With these and many other historic associations, modern Coventry was on the list of German bombers both as a "Baedeker town" and a productive industrial center.

Manufacturing flourished there as early as the 13th century, when the settlement was noted for its cutlery and glass, and a little later as the heart of England's wool trade. In time, Coventry turned to the making

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limited to the carving of miniature models. Its purpose is to revive an art which has been unique in world culture.

NOTE: The region where totem poles still are found may be located on the Society's map of Canada, Alaska & Greenland. See also, "Indians of Our North Pacific Coast" (including 16 reproductions in color of paintings), January, 1945.*

CANADIAN GOVERNMENT MOTION PICTURE BUREAU

**ALERT BAY, ON CANADA'S VANCOUVER ISLAND, IS A CENTER OF THE "TOTEMPOLAR REGIONS"**

**Thunderbird effigies dominate the wooden poles, carved by the Haida Indians. Claws of one figure clutch the eyebrows of the one below. Individual totems may be symbols of a person, family, or tribe. Indian carvers created stylized likenesses of birds, bears, and fish. Crude self-portraits and figures ridiculing other tribesmen also decorate the long poles.**

## Vampire Lamprey of Great Lakes Faces Eradication Drive

Good news for the fish inhabitants of the Great Lakes, and for fishermen. The lamprey, a marine aggressor of the worst sort, is due for a crackdown by the United States government. The vampire-suggesting sea lamprey is an eellike fish that attaches its round sucker mouth to a fish victim, rasping off the scales and flesh with its sharp teeth and drinking the blood.

Increasing losses incurred by fishermen resulted in a 1946 law providing for studies of the problem. Current anti-lamprey legislation is now in process.

The Great Lakes lampreys started migrating up the St. Lawrence River long ago. They moved steadily westward, bringing damage, especially among lake trout, of hundreds of thousands of dollars annually. Although a large number of victims live to be caught by fishermen, the scars they bear represent a commercial loss.

The creature holds its mouth always open because it has no jaws. It resembles a piece of garden hose. It uses its suction grip not only in feeding but to hold on to stones when moving against current. In gravel-bottomed streams, the spawning parents scoop out nests, lifting rocks with the all-purpose mouth.

Among weapons tried in combatting the pests are dams, traps, and electric currents. Shocks are used against adult breeders to make their capture easier, and against the larvae to interrupt hatching.

Bulletin No. 4, November 28, 1949

# Brazil, Guatemala Losses Hurt Coffee Trade

FOR drinkers of coffee, recent dispatches from Latin America are depressing. Reports that much of Guatemala's coffee crop has been washed out by torrential rains and floods are now added to the gloomy picture of curtailed supplies from big-producer Brazil.

Last summer's drought in Brazil's coffee-raising areas was followed by cold September winds that stripped the trees of blossoms. These factors had brought predictions of coming shortages and higher prices even before the Guatemalan bad news broke.

## Western World Leads

Brazil is the world's Number One coffee grower. Guatemala's output, though much smaller, is actually more important than figures reveal, because of its flavor and mildness, both prized for blending.

In the ever-shifting balance sheets of the industry, the prospective losses from these two sources turn attention to other coffee-raising countries. Though the bean is produced around the world, about five-sixths of all the coffee consumed comes from the Western Hemisphere.

After Brazil ranks Colombia (illustration, next page), moving up to first place in mild-coffee output. The Netherlands Indies was in third position before World War II, but since has dropped far back as a result of political unrest (see Bulletin No. 1).

Besides Guatemala, three other important producers of the West—El Salvador, Haiti, and Costa Rica—have crowned coffee king of their export crops. The beverage bean also is important in the trade of Venezuela, Mexico, and other Latin American nations, as well as various Caribbean islands, notably Puerto Rico.

India and Africa, too, have a place on coffee-producing lists, with the Belgian Congo, French West Africa, Ethiopia, Madagascar, and British East Africa among leading growers.

## Coffee Traveled Far

The East African region is the home of the coffee tree, which is native to Ethiopia and perhaps also to the Arabian Peninsula. At any rate, the traveling and trading Arabs early cultivated the plant and popularized the use of its bean to make the beverage (illustration, inside cover).

From the east-Mediterranean countries, in the 1600's, the coffee plant was transported to Java, India, and elsewhere. Coffee drinking spread to Europe, creating the coffeehouses of Paris, London, and Vienna.

In the New World at least one coffee import license was issued in the Massachusetts Bay Colony as early as 1670, while to the south the 1700's saw the introduction of the plant into the West Indies and South America where it was to break all records for development.

Today the people of the United States, drinking an estimated hundred billion cups a year, form the world's leading consumer group. The United States Navy, noted for its coffee imbibing, downs almost a million cups of "joe" a day.

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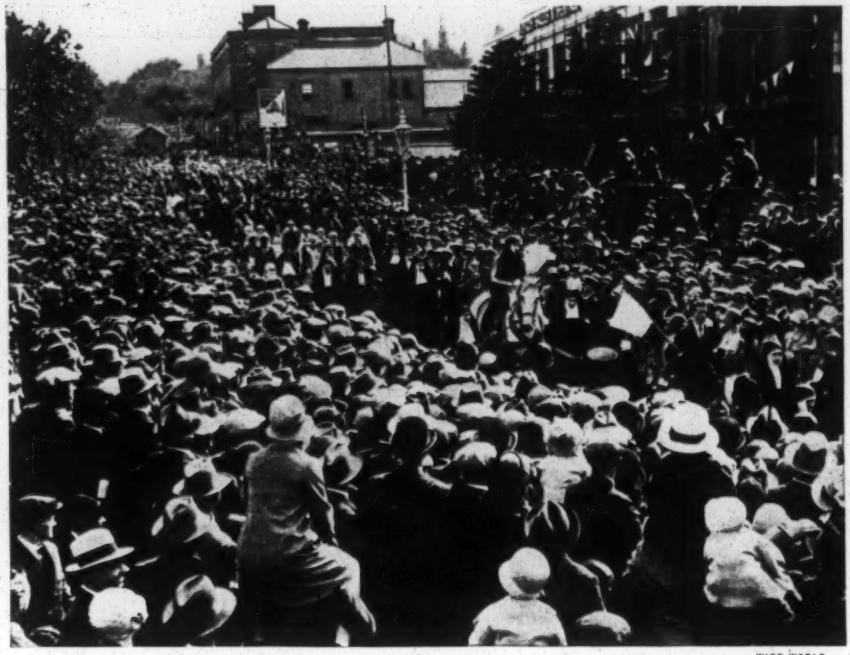
of ribbons, buttons, watches, sewing machines, tools, and bicycles; and, as the electrical and motor age came on, to telephones, automobiles, radios, and airplanes.

The city's population was above 200,000 when the German raiders of November, 1940, wiped out its medieval center and destroyed or damaged scores of thousands of houses. A long-term program for rebuilding the "coventrized" city is now under way. The objective is to blend convenient modernity with the old tradition.

NOTE: Coventry may be located on the Society's map of The British Isles.

For additional information, see "The British Way" in the *National Geographic Magazine* for April, 1949.



WIDE WORLD

**A RE-ENACTMENT OF LADY GODIVA'S RIDE FILLS THE COVENTRY STREETS WITH ONLOOKERS**

## Football Hall of Fame to Rise at Scene of First Football Game

The paths of pigskin glory now lead to the spot where intercollegiate football got its start just 80 years ago.

Rutgers University, in New Brunswick, New Jersey, is the site selected by the newly founded National Football Hall of Fame for its shrine to honor the gridiron great. At New Brunswick the first college grid classic was played (under soccer rules) on November 6, 1869, with Rutgers pitted against Princeton. Rutgers won 6—4, for its only victory over Princeton in 69 years. Not until 1938 did Rutgers beat the Tigers for the second time.

Princeton's players did not like the final score of that first game, so they immediately challenged the victors to a match the next week. They showed up on November 13, 1869, with a secret weapon—the first cheering section. In their first game the players themselves had let loose with "The Scarer," a rebel yell used a few years earlier by Confederate soldiers. But in the return match, to save their breaths for playing, they turned over the vocal chores to Princeton students following the play on the sidelines. Every time Princeton started a play the students gave voice to the Scarer. Thus was born the football cheer. Princeton won 8—0.

Bulletin No. 5, November 28, 1949

# World Gets Peek Past Yemen Mystery Curtain

THE half-buried city of Timna, once part of Sheba's storied domain, is tantalizing archeologists anew with visions of untapped scientific treasures in the southwest corner of the Arabian Peninsula.

A survey just completed by an American archeologist, who flew from Aden to this ancient site along the vague borderland between Yemen and Saudi Arabia, reports that city walls and temple ruins are still visible, waiting for scientific research. Such information is particularly stirring in "diggers' " circles because so far, despite Biblical and scholarly interest, little factual information on the area has been available.

## First Diplomatic Mission in 1946

The Arabian blank is due partly to physical problems of transport over high mountains and barren deserts. Far more important, however, have been the barriers raised by hostility of native tribesmen and the long isolationism of the Kingdom of Yemen (map, next page), which covers much of the territory linked with the old civilizations of the Queen of Sheba and other more or less legendary characters.

It is only since World War II that Yemen has taken a few tentative steps toward lifting its age-old curtain of mystery (illustration, inside cover). In 1946, the first diplomatic mission from the United States was received there. Out of the negotiations came a treaty of commerce and friendship, followed by an extension of credit to the Arab kingdom for the purchase of such United States goods as trucks, hospital supplies, and road-building, telephone, and drilling equipment.

In turn, in 1947, Uncle Sam entertained his first Yemeni official—a white robed, dagger-carrying son of the ruling iman—who made arrangements for direct trade between the two countries. That same year, the Yemen government joined the United Nations.

But the rifts in Yemen's isolation have not meant a wide-open door. Visitors still have to obtain permission to enter the country, and only a handful of foreigners are allowed to live there.

## Four Ancient Kingdoms

In the archeological field, the excavation of many almost untouched sites remains to be undertaken, although efforts have been initiated by Arab antiquarians to secure the iman's approval for certain work.

It is believed that four ancient kingdoms of southern Arabia—the Ma'an, Saba (or Sheba), Kataban, and Hadhramaut—had their respective capitals at Ma'an, Marib, Timna, and Shabwa. The first three of these sites lie along the eastern fringes of Yemen. The fourth is a little farther east in the also undefined borderland between Saudi Arabia and Britain's Aden Protectorate.

Best known of the four is Sheba's Marib. According to the Biblical story, the Queen of Sheba visited Solomon bearing rich gifts of spices, gold, and precious stones. The oldest civilization is probably that of Ma'an, which is estimated to have had its beginning as early as 1300 B.C.

During the war, leaders went to great lengths, in out-of-the-way spots, to provide their men with the much-desired beverage, politely and impolitely known as "java," "mocha" (from the Yemen port; see map, Bulletin No. 5), "jamoke," "silt," and "sludge."

Some of the world's now expanding coffee demand has been attributed to the wartime global travels of the American forces. Added to the generally increased United States demand, indicated by a 50-per-cent rise in postwar imports, this popular reach for the coffeepot has been discouraged only by rationing and lack of currency abroad.

NOTE: The coffee-growing countries may be located on the Society's World Map.

For further information, see "Cruising Colombia's 'Ol' Man River'," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for May, 1947; "Land of the Painted Oxcarts," October, 1946; "Coffee Is King in El Salvador," November, 1944*; and, in the GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS, January 3, 1949, "Vienna Coffeehouses Stage Postwar Revival"; and "Hard-Working Costa Rica Hit by High Prices," March 31, 1947.

AMOS BURG

**WORKERS DRY COLOMBIAN COFFEE ON RACKS THAT CAN BE PUSHED UNDER COVER DURING RAINS**

**The drying job comes in the middle of the coffee bean's long trip from mountainside to sideboard. After being picked, the red berries run through a sluice which separates the ripe from the green. At the pulping house, machinery removes the pulp, releasing the two seeds, or beans, within. These go through fermenting and washing tanks, then are put in the sun to dry for several weeks. The drying loosens two layers of "skin" around the beans which can then be blown off. After careful sorting, the beans are ready for market.**

According to information sketchily taken from old Greek records, and from various coins, figures, and inscriptions obtained by visitors being hurried through the country by the authorities, the Arab kingdoms of antiquity were highly civilized agricultural and trading communities. Hadhramaut was the incense producer. The other three prospered chiefly as overland dealers in the valuable traffic between East and West.

NOTE: Yemen may be located on the Society's map of Asia and Adjacent Areas.

For further information, see "Yemen—Southern Arabia's Mountain Wonderland," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for November, 1947; and in the GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS, March 8, 1948, "San'a Skyscraper Capital of Ancient Yemen"; and "Yemen Follows Saudi Arabia in Discarding Forbidden-Land Role," April 1, 1946.

DRAWN BY H. E. EASTWOOD AND THEODORA PRICE

**IN MYSTERIOUS YEMEN, EVEN THE BOUNDARIES—PETERING OUT IN THE ARABIAN DESERT—ARE A MYSTERY: THE ANCIENT CITY OF MARIB LIES EAST OF SAN'A, THE CAPITAL**